

Dan C. Stevenson

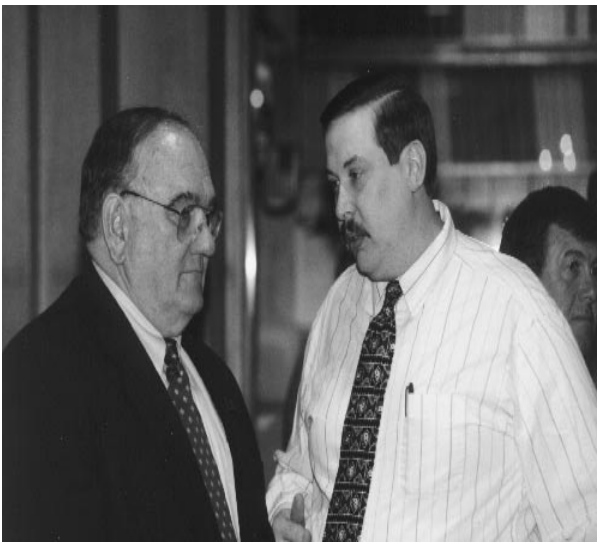
State Representative ! District 11

1999 SESSION OF THE INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STATE BUDGET PROVIDES TAX CUTS, FUNDING FOR EDUCATION

The new state budget will make a very real difference in the lives of many Hoosiers. Some of the highlights include:

- Program Funding
- Public education: Statewide total formula funding increase of an average of 4.7 percent in calendar years 2000 and 2001, with minimum guarantees of funding increases of at least 2.5%. Funding was increased for both at-risk and academic honors programs. Local schools and libraries also received \$76 million in technology funding.
 - CHOICE: \$5 million increase per year in funding for home health care for the elderly
 - Higher education: appropriations were increased by 7.0 percent in fiscal year 2000 and 4.7 percent in 2001
 - Vocational education: incentives for school corporations to provide programs in which high employment demand exists
 - A new \$50 million 21st Century Research and Technology Fund that will promote high-tech industries located in Indiana
 - Social services: Funding for the seriously mentally ill is increased by \$3 million in 2000 and \$6 million in 2001. MRDD programs will receive an additional \$9 million in funding.
- Savings to Taxpayers
- Elimination of county welfare fund and county welfare administration funds from local property taxes (two-year savings: \$67.6 million);
 - Elimination of inventory tax for 87 percent of farms and businesses (two-year savings: \$129.6 million).



Representative Stevenson discusses legislation benefitting Northwest Indiana with Senator Frank Mrvan (D-Hammond).

BUILD INDIANA PROJECTS WILL BENEFIT NORTHWEST INDIANA	
Hammond Projects	
Martin Luther King Bandshell	\$40,000
Challenger Space Learning Center	\$210,000
Ophelia Steen Community Center	\$40,000
Woodland Child Development Center	\$15,000
Hammond YMCA	\$65,000
Northwest Family Services	\$50,000
Cline Avenue Sound Barriers	\$400,000
Highland Projects	
Downtown Redevelopment	\$100,000
Fire Department (Hurst Tool Set)	\$37,000
Fire Department (Radio Equipment)	\$40,000
Highland Girls Youth Basketball	\$1,000
Police Department (Storage Garage)	\$40,000
Schererville Projects	
Flood Control (Hartsdale Pond)	\$125,000
Hoosier Boys' Town	\$200,000
Fire Station Construction/Addition	\$120,000
Joliet Street Improvements	30,000
Lake County Projects	
Lake County Children's Museum	\$1,000,000
Northern Indiana Arts Association	\$38,600
Civil Rights Hall of Fame	\$25,000

Additional \$200 million approved for Indiana Roads

The additional \$200 million that we were able to appropriate from the state general fund for local roads will significantly benefit District 11 as well as other Northwest Indiana communities. The communities within District 11 will receive more than \$3 million for local roads over the next two years. This is in addition to the regular funding from gasoline taxes. Many of you have indicated a strong desire to see the legislature do more to fund local road improvements.

The box to the right shows a breakdown of the local road fund appropriations for our district. The amounts listed for each city are in addition to the total for county roads. The amount appropriated to each community is based on the population of the community.

New road money for District 11

- Lake County**
\$2,179,842
- City of Hammond**
\$2,354,812
- Town of Highland**
\$674,316
- Town of Schererville**
\$621,669



Lake Central team honored at statehouse. The Lake Central High School dance team, "The Centralettes" was honored with a resolution by the Indiana General Assembly for winning the National Dance Championship last year. Representative Stevenson, who was author of the resolution, as well as a resolution honoring this year's team for winning its 5th consecutive State Championship, joins members of last year's team at the podium on the House floor.

Hoosiers will save \$672 million over the next two years in tax cuts

- **Homeowners:** a new income tax deduction for property taxes up to \$2500
- **Senior citizens:** income tax deduction: an increase from \$1000 to \$1500
- **Senior citizens:** property tax deduction: an increase from \$1000 to \$2000
- **Dependent children:** an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1000 to \$2500
- **Renters:** an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1500 to \$2000
- **Mobile homes & campers:** eliminated property taxes on mobile homes and campers valued up to \$37,500
- **Long-term care health insurance:** an income tax deduction for the premiums paid for long-term health care insurance
- **Earned income tax credit:** a new refundable credit for working parents making less than \$12,000 (replaces deduction)

How to contact

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HOUSE PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

Relax... - This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education - A 24 page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies - This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts - Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Don't Be a Victim - This booklet offers helpful tips and other information on how to avoid being a victim of a scam. Some highlights include tips for avoiding telephone, mail and other types of scams.

State Government Phone Numbers

State Information Center	1-800-382-1563
Office of the Governor	1-317-232-4567
Indiana Senate	1-800-382-9467
Indiana House of Representatives	1-800-382-9842
Representative Dan Stevenson (<i>home</i>)	922-9874
Indiana Secretary of State	1-317-232-6531
State Auditor	1-317-232-3300
State Treasurer	1-317-232-6386
Bureau of Motor Vehicles	1-317-232-2800
Indiana Tourism Division	1-800-289-6646
Natural Resources	1-317-232-4020
Indiana Dept. of Labor	1-317-232-2655
Indiana Dept. of Revenue	1-317-232-2240
Dept. of Corrections	1-317-232-5715
Dept. of Education	1-317-232-6611
Consumer Protection Division	1-800-382-5516
<i>Indiana Attorney General's Office</i>	
Dept. of Environmental Management	1-800-451-6027
Insurance Dept.	1-800-622-4461
<i>Insurance related complaints and insurance laws.</i>	
Utility Regulatory Commission	1-317-232-2701
AIDS Hotline	1-800-848-2437
Drug Free Indiana	1-800-253-3387
Family Wellness Healthline	1-800-433-0746
Home Health Care Hotline	1-800-227-6334
Poison Control Hotline	1-800-382-9097

LAKE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSIT BILL PASSES

House Bill 1318, authored by Representative Stevenson, will allow the Lake County Council the opportunity to establish the Lake County Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Once enacted by the County Council, the authority would work to improve transportation options for the citizens living and working within Lake County.

The bill also requires the Lake County Council to establish a citizens advisory council to assist the RTA board.

The RTA will serve an important function and by having a citizens advisory council involved in the process we will ensure fair and equitable treatment that will meet the needs of all the people in the region.

Rep. Stevenson votes to protect consumers & children

Stopping “slamming” & “cramming” -- House Bill 1628 gives the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) authority to impose a civil penalty on a telecommunications provider if the provider has violated the law or rules prohibiting the unauthorized switching of telecommunications providers or the billing of unauthorized services -- known as “slamming” and “cramming.”

“Slamming” is the term used to describe the telecommunications practice of changing a person’s phone service provider without the customer’s permission. “Cramming,” on the other hand, refers to billing for services not authorized by the customer.

Telephone solicitation -- House Bill 1434 should be a welcome relief to many of those same consumers and groups by imposing stricter regulations on professional solicitors and fundraisers while protecting telephone customers.

The bill requires a professional solicitor to disclose several items to the attorney general, including the portion of a contribution that goes to the solicitor and the portion that actually goes to the charity.

It also requires professional solicitors to disclose many of those items at the beginning of each call, including the name of the company and the phone number and address of the location from which the call is being made.

HMOs -- House Bill 1309 establishes an external procedure for grievances against HMOs. The bill would require the Indiana Department of Insurance to hear grievances filed by individuals who have been denied services by an HMO.

The review would allow a physician who specializes in the treatment in question rather than a general practitioner or other physician to determine whether the patient should receive the requested services. Furthermore, the bill has

provisions to ensure the review is done in a timely fashion. In life-threatening cases, the review will take place within five days.

This bill provides a less costly and less time-consuming procedure for HMO grievance review. The independent reviews would be paid for by HMOs except for a \$25 filing fee paid for by the consumer.

Wrongful death -- With the passage of House Bill 1147, which I was pleased to be a co-author of, survivors of unmarried adults will soon be able to seek legal action against the party or parties responsible for wrongful death.

The bill specifies that the amount received from a case of wrongful death or negligence may not exceed \$300,000. However, only the victim’s parents or children may receive the settlement. Currently, Indiana is the only state that denies survivors of single adults the opportunity to pursue a legal remedy.

The bill would entitle the victim’s family to recover damages stemming from medical, hospital, funeral and burial costs. In addition, the survivors may seek monetary compensation for the loss of love and companionship. However, survivors may not seek punitive damages from the party responsible.

Child neglect -- Penalties for child neglect have been increased. The penalty for a person found guilty of neglect that results in bodily injury, or involves cruel or unusual confinement or abandonment of a child, will be increased from a Class D to Class C felony. In addition, when a person is found guilty of extreme neglect (a Class B felony), courts will not have to follow guidelines to make a reasonable effort to unite the child with his or her family.

Infant hearing -- Hearing examinations are now included in the tests required under the newborn screening program.